

\*\*\*\*\*Draft\*\*\*\*\*

**Weare Open Space Committee**  
Minutes of March 23, 2010

Members attending: George Malette, Ian McSweeney, Pat Myers - secretary.

Guests: Ryan Young - Land Protection Specialist with SPNHF.

Pat called the meeting to order in Chairman Najjar's absence at 7:17 pm.

The members present decided to proceed with the annual election of WOSC officers. Steve had made it known previously that he was ready to step down as chair. Ian indicated he was willing to take on the job. Therefore George nominated Ian for the position of Chair of the Open Space Committee. Pat 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was no discussion and no other nominations, so the vote was called for. All voted in favor of Ian becoming Chair. There were no abstentions. Ian led the meeting from this time forward.

Minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting were reviewed. George made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Pat seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Hawkes update— Ian reported the date for the public hearing for the CE on the additional piece has been set but Steve has that information. Ian believes it will be during the April WCC meeting. The closing will be in mid April.

Cleaves - Ian asked if anyone knew how the site walk went. Pat said she tried to catch up with the walk but couldn't find anyone, not even a familiar car. Ian said he guessed that no one was able to go. He said he had spoken the family. They are still discussing the price.

Ian stated he wanted the committee members to know that there could be future situations when he would have a conflict of interest due to his work as Executive Director of the Russell Foundation. He continued that the Foundation has decided to focus its resources for Weare in 2 portions of town: the Melvin Valley area and the western side of town which includes the Ferrin Pond area and Horace Lake Marsh. There could be a specific project elsewhere in town the Foundation might get involved in.

Ian said he had been in touch with the owner of 66.5 acres at the end of Wildwood Road off of Abijah Bridge Road in the Lake Horace Marsh area. The owner, Wolf Creek Investments is asking \$50,000. This piece is near several undeveloped lots in the Wildwood subdivision owned by a single owner by the name of Sutar(sp?). Ian believes there is potential there.

At this time Ian introduced Ryan Young. Ryan had already shared his information with Ian who excused himself to leave.

Ryan presented 2 potential projects in Weare that he has been looking into for the Forest Society:  
#1. Purrington Farm on Quaker Street owned by Dale and Barbara Purrington. They have lived there for 20 years and the land has been in the family for longer. They want to see the land protected. This could be an FFRP funded project with 27.5 acres that are currently farmed (this is 1/3 of the ag soils but the rest isn't currently being farmed) plus additional forested land for a total of 82+/- acres. The Purringtons want to protect the remainder as well but there may not be enough funding to cover it. If the land appraises at roughly \$7000/acre x 82 acres, that would be approximately \$570,000. Ryan said he expects there will be a bargain sale component to the funding so if we assume a 25% bargain sale, the remaining 25% of the required 50% local match would be \$142,500. Ryan said he is looking into DES grant funding for water supply protection but that source of funding won't be available again for 2 years. He said he believes this is a very sound project and that the Purringtons are truly committed.

#2 Illsley – This 130 acre dairy farm is located on Concord Stage Road and Sugar Hill Road. The Illsley family has farmed here since the 1930s. They have fallen on very hard economic times, have recently sold their dairy herd and are looking for ways to remain on the farm. Ryan said he thinks this would be a more difficult project to fund. His assessment is that the Illsleys cannot wait long for funding to be found. He also believes there are fewer natural resource attributes compared to the Purrington farm. However, the 55 acre west lot abuts the Felch Farm town forest which may make it of interest. FFRP funding might work on about 60 acres. Perhaps a project could be done in phases.

George suggested the State Department of Agriculture might be a resource for this project. Pat asked about wetlands and whether the near-by designated Important Bird Area could add natural resource value to the property.

Ryan said he would continue to work on these projects and would plan to attend the April 14<sup>th</sup> Conservation Commission meeting.

There being no further discussion and only 2 members remaining, George made the motion to adjourn and Pat 2<sup>nd</sup> his motion. Both agreed to end at \_\_\_\_\_pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Myers  
WOSC Secretary

Cc: Town Clerk, BOS, Merry Rice, WOSC files